

Nine foot eustatic high in New Zealand (ca. 2,000 B.C.) (Schofield, 1960).

The change in sea level since 12,000 B.C. is shown in Fig. 3. The marine shell beds at Rottneest indicate a marine transgression to at least 9 feet above present sea level in 2,000 B.C. The reduction in the size of the island that followed its isolation from the mainland, the consequent deterioration in rainfall on Rottneest, loss of habitats and increased exposure to wind and salt, have led to the extinction of a *Eucalyptus-Casuarina* woodland, *Xanthorrhoea*, *Macrozamia*, and possibly *Banksia* and *Agonis* scrubs. The vegetation was thus reduced to elements of a *coastal complex* which, in historical times, has been altered further by clearing, selective cutting, firing, grazing and competition from introduced plants. The influence of these factors on the present vegetation of Rottneest Island has been discussed.

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FROM FIELD AND STUDY

A Record of the Ox-eye Herring, *Megalops cyprinoides*, in Fresh Water in the Pilbara.—On August 23, 1956, my assistant A. C. Heyndyk collected a large fish, weighing 2 lb. 13 oz. and measuring 420 mm. from the snout to the middle of the caudal fork, in a small pool three miles south of Woodstock homestead, in the Pilbara district.

The specimen was identified by Mr. I. S. R. Munro, of the C.S.I.R.O. Marine Laboratory, Cronulla, N.S.W., as the Ox-eye Herring or Tarpon, *Megalops cyprinoides*, and the first record known to him of its occurrence away from coastal or brackish waters.

The pool was in the bed of the Yule River and had been isolated since the river ran in early March 1956. It was only some 10 ft. in diameter and about 3 ft. deep at its deepest point at the time the fish was caught. The length of the watercourse, between the pool and its mouth, west of Port Hedland, was in excess of 110 miles. The fish was very active and shared the pool with a large number of Spangled Perch, *Therapon unicolor*.

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